

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
Application No.: 10/669,891  
Attorney Docket No.: Q77693

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-31 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant amends the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION portion of the specification as required by the Examiner.

Claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner objects to the term “streak number.” The claims are amended and no longer recite a “streak number.”

The Examiner asserts that although the specification at page 19, lines 18-19 states that the “z-axis is made to coincide with a clip axis,” the figures do not show the clips appearing in a plane and suggests showing the axes on Fig. 1. This portion of the specification describes an X, Y and Z axis for a clip such that each clip shown, in Fig. 1 for example, has an X, Y and Z axis. The z-axis for a particular clip coincides with an axis of that clip. The z-axis does not refer to an axis of the wiring harness. The specification is amended at page 19 to make this clearer.

It is asserted in the Office Action that none of the drawings depicts a physical relationship of a beam element, such as the “beam element c” shown in Fig. 4 and disclosed at page 22, lines 10-11 of the specification, and the harness 1 shown in Fig. 1. The Examiner appears to require showing in the drawings beam elements comprising an entire wiring harness. Applicant respectfully points out that Figs. 4 and 5 show how beam elements are connected to one another and that a person of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand that further beam elements can be added to represent the wiring harness shown in Fig. 1.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,839,642 to Kawakita. Independent claims 1, 12, 15, 23, 25, 30 and 31 are amended and Applicant submits that the claims are not anticipated by Kawakita for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1, for example, is directed to a method of assisting with a wiring design of a wiring structure, such as a wiring harness. The method includes representing the wiring structure as an elastic body which has a circular section and in which a plurality of linear beam elements are coupled with each other. The method also includes applying information concerning a shape characteristic, a material characteristic and a constraining condition of the wiring structure as a predetermined condition to a finite element method. A predicted shape of the displaced wiring structure is calculated such that the predetermined condition is satisfied, and the calculated predicted shape is output. Claim 1 is amended to further recite “determining if the displaced wiring structure is located in a suitable position for the wiring design.”

Kawakita is directed to estimating the flexure life of a wiring harness. See Abstract and col. 7, lines 23-41. Kawakita estimates flexure life by modeling the wiring harness as a single virtual wire using a finite element mode. *Id.* and col. 13, lines 15-20. The Examiner refers to col. 13, line 15 through col. 18, line 67 and the flowchart in Fig. 3 for describing the process of estimating the flexure life of the wiring harness. Specifically, the Examiner refers to steps S04 through S08 for teaching the claimed invention. In these steps, Kawakita discloses inputting

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required data at step S01. The data input at step S01 includes “attaching coordinates of a securing point to which wire bundle 1 is secured,” and “attribute information of the wire bundle 1.” See col. 13, lines 42-46. The attribute information of the wire bundle can include the kinds of wires that constitute the wire bundle, the diameters of the conductor lines within the wires, and the rigidity of the respective conductor lines. See col. 13, line 63 through col. 14, line 2. The example given in Kawakita is a wire harness passing from a vehicle body into a door of the vehicle such that the wire harness flexes as the door opens and closes. Kawakita discloses that by inputting the attaching coordinates when the door is closed, “the shape of the wire bundle 1 at the time of the opened state of the door shown in Fig. 5 is found through calculations that are given following the changes of door 3 to the opened state.” See col. 13, lines 56-60.

There is a clear difference between the present invention and Kawakita. Claim 1, for example, and other claims in the present application are directed to assisting with a wiring design of a wiring structure. Kawakita, however, is not directed to designing a shape of a wire harness, but rather is directed to estimating the flexure life of a wire harness. Claim 1 recites “determining if the displaced wiring structure is located in a suitable position for the wiring design” which is neither taught nor suggested by Kawakita.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. See MPEP § 2131. Moreover, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989), cited in MPEP § 2131.

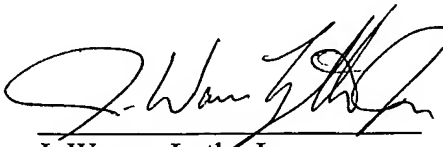
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Since Kawakita is not used for designing the shape of a wiring harness it does not disclose "determining if the displaced wiring structure is located in a suitable position for the wiring design," and hence, does not anticipate claim 1. The other independent claims, i.e., claims 12, 15, 23, 25 and 30, recite a similar limitation, and hence, are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, discussed above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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